

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "concern over plight of child labourers" as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission has been entrusted with the task of review the plight of child labour in the country;

(c) if so, whether the task of identifying child labourers has been entrusted by Government to some other private sector organisations also; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government has noted the contents of the news-items captioned, "Concern over plight of child labourers" published in the "Hindustan Times" dated 11th January, 2001. The National Human Rights Commission while taking *suo moto* cognizance of the press clipping constituted a Committee to examine every aspect of the employment of child labour in the lock industry in Aligarh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Special cells and employment exchanges for physically handicapped

2953. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the grants-in-aid given to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years for setting up or maintenance of special cells in normal Employment Exchanges or Special Employment Exchanges for physically challenged persons, year-wise, and the number of Special Cells or Exchanges set up in the State;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, an amount of Rs. 5,90,400- was released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh as grant-in-aid for setting up of a new special Employment Exchange for Persons with Disabilities at Cuddapah during 1999-2000. At present, there is a Special Employment Exchange at Hyderabad and there are two Special Cells functioning at Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5,00,504/- for upgradation of Special Cell functioning at Vishakhapatnam into a full-fledged Special Employment Exchange, during the year 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) There is no such pending proposal from State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Pension scheme for unorganised sector

†2954. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to recommend a parallel pension scheme for unorganized sector and to set up an independent regulatory authority to watch working of the pension scheme and also introduce a new scheme in place of public provident fund;

(b) if so, by when the said Committee would submit its report; and

(c) by when Government are likely to take a final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government has not set up a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.